

# A Study on the Recitation of National Classics in Universities under the New Liberal Arts<sup>1</sup>

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**Abstract:** Traditional culture education has great significance in the ideological and political education system of higher education institutions, but the situation of studying national culture in domestic universities is uneven. This study intends to integrate the contents and methods of classical recitation of national studies into the second classroom activities of English majors under the background of new liberal arts, we will base on problem-oriented and goal-oriented to improve the quality of talent cultivation and find the characteristics of professional development through the methods of practical innovation, migration innovation and integration innovation.

**Keywords:** New Liberal Arts; College English; Classical Recitation

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If education is strong, the country will be strong. The "new liberal arts" is to ensure the comprehensive training of students through integration of multi-courses, especially the integration of arts and science disciplines, such as the integration of modern advanced information technology knowledge into literature, philosophy, language and other knowledge courses, so as to enhance students' comprehensive ability. This ability can expand their specialties, develop innovative ideas and thinking skills. The construction of "new liberal arts" is an important direction for universities to promote subject development.

## 1. Core concepts of the New Liberal Arts

New liberal arts can be illustrated in two aspects, one is Chinese position, the other is the direction of needs. (1) Based on the Chinese position, "new" can be summarized as: the change of the era theme in the humanistic spirit; the integration and innovation of various disciplines; and the innovation of digital education and learning methods. The focus is on the infiltration of Chinese culture into all aspects of education to cultivate talents for the purpose of cultivating morale and building a good personality. The integration of classical Chinese recitation and curriculum construction can achieve the mission of moral cultivation and cultural shaping, and realize the integration and innovation of two different disciplines. 2) In addition, the construction of the new liberal arts starts from the actual needs, constantly promotes systematic transformation, and adds to the enhancement of cultural soft power. It insists on problem-oriented, focuses on developing comprehensive disciplines, firmly cultivates the direction of talents, and expands the education and teaching system.

By sorting out and selecting quality studies, we divide the studies of classical Chinese studies in colleges and universities into four main dimensions: combination of Chinese traditional culture with ideology and politics, traditional sinology studies and humanistic literacy, practices and effects of traditional sinology education in colleges and universities, and studies of Chinese culture and English teaching in colleges and universities.

### 1.1 Combination of Chinese traditional culture with ideology and politics

National classics play an important part of ideological and political education for contemporary college students in colleges and universities. The study of related literature shows that the development of national classics in domestic universities

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is uneven and there is no systematic standard. One of the reasons is that students have poor foundation in Chinese studies, the other is that the curriculum of Chinese studies is not standardized and the teaching methods are not various, and the third is that it is difficult to apply for the degree granting right of Chinese studies and there is no better policy support like other majors. It is necessary to integrate Chinese culture education with the college ideological education, which can promote the traditional Chinese culture and the great spirit of Chinese nation; enhance the humanistic spirit of college and enrich the teaching content of related courses.

## **1.2 Traditional sinology studies and humanistic literacy**

Although the interest in learning traditional sinology classes and cultural confidence is insufficient, researches show that college traditional national studies courses and activities can help college students inherit Chinese culture and spirit, cultivate aesthetic and moral education, and promote their physical and mental health, humanistic literacy, responsibility and cultural confidence. Contemporary college students are the inheritors of Chinese culture and national spirit, as well as important innovators, and good leadership can promote campus culture, enhance cultural self-confidence, set up cultural banners, strengthen social culture construction, and contribute to social harmony. We should make use of the existing conditions to activate the recitation environment of national classics and adopt the useful ways of new media and digital body technology to cultivate a team of traditional Chinese's researchers and teachers with a blend of literature and science. We should offer a series of online and offline elective courses, morning readings, peer support and other activities inside and outside the classroom, compile school-based teaching materials to give students more chances to learn traditional culture.

## **1.3 Practices and effects of traditional sinology education in colleges and universities**

Traditional culture education is taking on an increasingly important role in colleges and universities. Many colleges and universities use various forms to practice traditional Chinese education. Luo Jinzeng's study describes that the morning reading of traditional studies began in 2002 at Peking University and Tsinghua University, which has been promoted in many colleges and universities in 2008. The classics reading are mainly the Four Books and Five Classics. The study shows that the morning reading of Chinese classics is beneficial to "practicing the classics and applying them to the world" and is beneficial to physical and mental health. The study recommends: Making a good strategic plan of classical morning reading; designing suitable classical materials according to different locations and situations; adopting diversified ways of reading; and strengthening the evaluation of the effectiveness of traditional culture learning and long-term incentive measures. But specific learning outcomes were not showed by data.

## **1.4 The combination of Chinese culture and English teaching in colleges and universities.**

Taking Binzhou College as an example, Li Huihui (2019) discussed the practical significance of carrying out traditional sinology studies through actual research and analysis of English majors' learning of traditional culture, which put forward a novel and useful idea for traditional culture education. She also put forward specific suggestions on constructing curriculum, strengthening the construction of teacher groups, encouraging students to establish cultural confidence and cultivate patriotic feelings, encouraging college students to set up interest groups, and expanding international exchanges, etc. Wang Lin (2020) and Liu Li (2018) analyzed the practical reasons for the lack of Chinese culture literacy and lack of cultural self-confidence among students of English major, they also illustrated the positive role that traditional culture education can play.

The above four dimensions of research provide readers with a macroscopic view of the current status, importance and basic promotion methods and suggestions for the development of traditional culture education in colleges and universities. The search process of the literature reveals more theoretical discussions but it has less empirical studies and deep data mining.

## **2. The main measures to carry out classics recitation activities under the concept of new liberal arts**

In the context of the new liberal arts, it is based on the problem-oriented and goal-oriented approach, the content and methods of classical recitation of traditional culture should be integrated into the second classroom activities of English majors to improve the quality of talent training and find the characteristics of professional development, and we can use the methods of practical innovation, migration innovation and integration innovation. The overall framework of the methodological and content are illustrated below:

In this study, we used the "137 Chinese recitation method" to conduct a second classroom activity of classical recitation. The following dimensions and their specific effects were studied through the "traditional culture recitation activities in Chinese

and English", and we use SPSS software to analyze the below effects: 1) cultural effects; 2) effects on learners' worldview, life view, and values; 3) effects on quality dimensions; 4) effects on learning ability dimensions (comprehensive ability, Chinese language ability, English language ability); 5) theories and methods of Chinese classics recitation; 6) the degree of mastery of the Analects and the Tao Te Ching through recitation, WeChat push, and offline activities; 7) suggestions for activity development and innovation.

Through diversified classical recitation activities, practical experience will be accumulated to describe the details of activity implementation, such as theoretical support, specific recitation contents, recitation times and processes, and specific ways of activities, so as to provide operable plans for the upcoming broader tradition culture recitation activities. Furthermore, we will continue to practice and explore in the context of the new liberal arts to form a special second classroom activity which is suitable for English major learners in application-oriented undergraduate.

### 3. Summary

Under the vision of "New Liberal Arts", English majors should continue to improve their connotation, enhance quality construction, cultivate excellent talents, promote national spirit, deepen multi-national collaboration, and promote social progress. Foreign languages are widely permeated in all disciplines and become the basic tools of each discipline, and they are completely different from local characteristics. These characteristics reflect that the needs of foreign language talents training are up-to-date, new and comprehensive, and in such a context, it is inevitable to strengthen the international exchange between disciplines and internationalize talents training. At the national level, these concepts are necessary for development and construction, and at the international level, they are part of the creation of a community of human destiny.

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